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Worldwide Report

ARMS CONTROL



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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11 December 1985

WORLDWIDE REPORT

ARMS CONTROL

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SDI AND SPACE ARMS

USSR HITS U.S. ATTEMPT TO DRAW ALLIES INTO PARTICIPATION

Growing Awareness in Britain

PM191932 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Nov 85 First Edition p 5

[Arkadiy Maslennikov "Commentator's Column": "On a Dangerous Path"]

[Text] London -- The other day the U.S. and British Defense secretaries signed a preliminary agreement on participation by U.K. universities and industrial companies in the elaboration of plans in the context of the U.S. president's so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI). The agreement has still to be officially ratified in London and Washington, but, as the British papers report, a special department is already being set up deep within the British Defense Ministry whose brief will be to coordinate the activity of British scientific research establishments and industrial firms within the framework of SDI.

Washington's commitment to involving its West European partners in the elaboration of the "star wars" program is perfectly understandable. The U.S. Administration is not only hoping to weaken the mounting worldwide accusations that it is sabotaging arms limitation accords and refusing to take steps to put international relations back on the path of detente and constructive international cooperation. Washington is expecting to obtain direct benefits from the implementation of its plans. It is common knowledge that West European scientists and industrial firms have achieved marked successes in the elaboration of a number of scientific and technical problems. tion of them could not only aid the United States in the implementation of the "star wars" program but also strengthen its positions in the world imperialist market.

A tense struggle is now flaring up on both sides of the Atlantic between "star wars" program enthusiasts and those who rightly fear that its implementation will lead to a dangerous destabilization of the international situation, to militarization not only of space, but of important spheres of economic and scientific activity on earth, and to an intensification of the West European NATO countries' dependence on their senior U.S. ally.

These fears were clearly voiced, in particular, at the London international conference organized by the FINANCIAL TIMES. Italian Professor Paulo Fasella, director general of the EEC Commission's scientific research department, warned that participation SDI program "may divert West European researchers from projects geared to making a commercial impact." The "star wars" program, the well-known British historian M. Howard said, will lead to an increase in international tension and a further bout of sprinting in the arms race.

These and other examples graphically show that today, on the threshold of the Geneva meeting, the contrasting approaches to the matter of security for all mankind on the part of those who are prepared to do everything possible to eliminate the threat of nuclear catastrophe and those who are more concerned with the "success" of their strategic military programs are becoming increasingly evident. In Britain, as in other West European countries there is a growing awareness that participation in the implementation of space militarization plans is a dangerous path which cannot benefit Western Europe.

Congressman Hunter's Europe Trip

PM151503 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Nov 85 p 1

[Own correspondent V. Boykov dispatch under the rubric "Our Commentary": "Trap for Europe"]

[Text] Brussels, 12 Nov -- A group of American congressmen headed by D. Hunter is currently touring West Europe. It is visiting Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Bonn, and London. The purpose is to publicize the "star wars" plans and the project to create a "more modest European defense system."

Meeting with politicians, businessmen, and military men, the transatlantic traveling salesmen are promoting the idea of complementing the U.S. weapons in space with a ground-based "ABM belt" deployed on their allies' territory.

This is not a new idea. It came into being at the end of 1983. It was originated by the commission appointed by the U.S. President and headed by Professor F. Hoffman. U.S. specialists proposed using approximately 1,000 missiles of the Patriot type as the basic components of the West European addition to the "Strategic Defense Initiative." The FRG and the Netherlands have already signed contracts to acquire these weapons. The first consignment is to be delivered in 1987.

By deploying these missiles on their soil, the French magazine L'EXPRESS warns, Western European countries will find themselves willy-nilly involved in the preparations for "star wars."

D. Hunter and his colleagues are publicizing another variant of the West European "addition" to SDI: to use the missile being developed [razrabatyvayemyy] by the U.S. LTV concern instead of Patriot missiles. It uses ASAT system technology which has already been tested by the Pentagon. The transatlantic guests are offering their allies the following distribution of roles. The Europeans, D. Hunter declared, themselves pay for and themselves construct on their own soil the system to complement SDI, while the United States supplies them with information and technology. The promise to share the latest technology is bait with whose help Washington wants to drive West Europe into its space trap. And this bait contravenes the terms of the ABM Treaty.

Two aims are clearly visible in the European tour by D. Hunter's propaganda team. First, to involve the allies by any means in the plans to prepare for "star wars." Second, to draw the NATO partners into the process of undermining the ABM Treaty.

Eureka Project

LD180006 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Nov 85

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Aleksandr Bovin--live]

[Text] The U.S. rough hustling tactics can be felt not only in Canada, but also in Western Europe. Washington is trying to get support for its "star wars" program from its West European allies. Things are obviously not in order on the NATO European flank; however, Paris' opposition is the most radical. Speaking in the Institute of Higher National Defense Studies, the French prime minister, Laurent Fabius, recently declared the following — I quote: The U.S. program was originally presented as a defense program. In fact, however, it finds its expression in the development [razrabotka] of new armaments and their siting [razmeshcheniy] in space. If such a system is set up [dozdana], the prime minister said, this will bring in its train the deployment [razvertyvaniye] of other similar systems, too, and it thus serves to spur on the creation [sozdaniye] of new offensive weapons. It will engender a new spiral in the competition between the shield and the sword. This U.S. initiative, given the uncertainty connected with it, could become a destabilizing factor in the general strategic situation. In these conditions, Fabius concluded, France does not consider it possible to join in the U.S. initiative. This is the thinking in Paris.

Of the European members of NATO, Denmark, Norway, Greece, and the Netherlands have, like France, officially refused to participate in the "star wars" program. The first to allow itself to be persuaded at the intergovernmental level was Great Britain. Michael Heseltine, the British defense secretary, quite recently in Brussels agreed with his U.S. colleague the conditions for participation by British firms and scientific institutes in realizing the "star wars" program. True, in order to come to an agreement, London lifted its main demand: that its businessmen and scientists be guaranteed orders worth \$1.5 billion. The United States refused to give such a guarantee, but London went along with the agreement. This accord, it is true, requires ratification by the British Government. Ratification will evidently soon ensue.

Stormy discussions are under way in the FRG. Foreign Minister Genscher reportedly is adopting — or more accurately, had adopted — a more cautious position than Chancellor Kohl. But it seems that Genscher has given way, and they have apparently agreed now to wait for the meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev in Geneva; and after this has ended, Manfred Woerner, the FRG defense minister, will inform his U.S. colleague that the FRG officially backs up research work within the framework of this Strategic Defense Initiative. The press reports,

however, that, strictly speaking, this will not be an intergovernmental agreement. It will simply be an exchange of messages in which the basic conditions for participation by FRG firms and West German scientists in the defense initiative will be laid down. Well, there is as yet no final decision.

Here, comrades, one must bear in mind a juridical nuance: It is not governments which are taking part in the realization in the Strategic Defense Initiative — Britain or the FRG, for instance, or Italy, shall we say, which is also discussing this. The governments are only coming to agreement with Washington on designating some general legal framework within which private firms and scientific institutions will participate in work on the "star wars" program. It is precisely here that the two-faced, so to speak, contradictory attitude of Western Europe to the Strategic Defense Initiative is reflected. Altogether, the disputes and vacillation and doubts over "star wars" are continuing in Europe.

Attempts to consolidate the scientific and technical efforts of Western Europe are also continuing within the framework of the French-proposed Eureka project. Two intergovernmental conferences have already been held on this project, in Paris and Hanover, which dealt with starting up Eureka. The first joint projects have already been designated. In its conception and realization, Eureka is intended to lead to the establishment of a so-called European technological community, that is, to strengthen Western Europe's efforts in the competitive struggle with the United States, first and foremost, and with Japan.

Participation in Eureka is regarded not as an alternative to participation in the "star wars" program. Many firms are trying to invest money on both sides of the ocean. Furthermore, Western Europe is stressing the civilian nature of Eureka, although it is not denied that certain projects and research can also have military applications. What is more, this military note has started to resound rather more clearly, and the U.S. ear, of course, is heeding this note very well. And the United States is trying to reinforce it, too, by more or less delicately giving the Europeans to understand that the space shield which it is planned to erect in the United States will be unlikely to give a complete and reliable cover to Western Europe — although the Pentagon will strive to make it do so. It would nevertheless be useful, the West Europeans are being persuaded, if the allies started to develop [razrabatyvat] their own scheme, oriented to the specific characteristics of Western Europe; if, so to speak, they augmented the U.S. initiative with their own European initiative. This fact reflects Washington's general concept: the way to demilitarization on earth passes by way of militarization of space; and in a more general form, the way to disarmament in general passes by way of up-arming. It is, incidentally, with just this baggage that they have come to Geneva, unfortunately.

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CSO: 5200/1166

USSR HITS GEN ABRAHAMSON ON 'STAR WARS'

Announces Successful Test

LD220027 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 22 Nov 85

[Text] The United States has carried out another test of a space weapon for "star wars." A model of the second stage of an intercontinental ballistic missile was destroyed by a hard plastic shell fired from a pneumatic cannon. This has been revealed by General Abrahamson, who heads the American program for developing an antimissile defense system with space-based segments. The general said he was awaiting orders to speed up work on space weapons.

Attempts to Prevent Arms Accords

LD251423 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 25 Nov 85

[Commentary by Vladimir Pasko]

[Text] General Abrahamson, director of the U.S. program for the militarization of space, has declared that even if the USSR and United States reach agreement on a mutual reduction of strategic arms, the U.S. preparations for "star wars" will be continued. Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, the general announced with unconcealed satisfaction that even now research under that program is being conducted in the United States ahead of schedule. Over to commentator Vladimir Pasko:

Abrahamson's statement will dash the hopes of the West Europeans for an improvement in the international situation -- hopes resulting from the recently ended Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva. It is known that the U.S. military-industrial complex -- that monstrous league of reactionary politicians and Pentagon contractors -- exerted no little effort, if not to wreck the meeting, then at least to poison the atmosphere in which it was held. This is how U.S. observers themselves regarded the scandalous leak on the eve of the meeting of information on the letter from Defense Secretary Weinberger in which he entreated the President not to make any agreements with the Russians. A similar assessment is made of the Pentagon's divulging, during the meeting, secret information of fresh tests under the "star wars" program and the no less provocative statement by the said Abrahamson that after the meeting work on the Strategic Defense Initiative will be conducted much faster and more effectively.

As you know, these provocations did not reach their mark. The Geneva meeting went ahead. The Soviet leadership deemed it necessary, even in such a tense atmosphere, to hold direct talks with the United States for a personal exchange of opinion on cardinal ques-

tions of war and peace. Although it did not prove possible to solve specific problems of arms limitation and reduction, the sides confirmed an accord on the need to seek ways to prevent the arms race in space and halt it on earth. They declared the inadmissibility of nuclear war and their renunciation of the aim of military superiority. All this was received in the world, including among U.S. allies, with a frank sigh of relief. But not in the Pentagon: The very possibility of any accords throws the generals, and all who make a living out of the war business, into a cold sweat. That is why they are so energetically trying to prove now that everything will be the same as before.

'Deliberately Distorting Soviet Position'

PM241449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Nov 85 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Agafonov article under the rubric "Journalist's Notes": "'No' to a New Spiral!"]

[Text] The Geneva summit between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan has become a symbol of political realism, good sense, and optimistic hopes for the world's peoples. The 2 days of talks illuminated a great deal in the world. And today, talking about the importance of Geneva and its practical results, it is necessary to maintain the favorable climate that emerged during the talks and to preserve the spirit of Geneva.

It is no secret that there are certain forces, first and foremost in the United States, which are trying to wreck the process of improving Soviet-U.S. relations and which would benefit not from an easing of tension but from hard-line confrontation, not from ending the arms race, but from more and more spirals in it. It was no accident that on the eve of the summit the Pentagon and its military-industrial complex partners showed particular activeness in propagandizing militarist programs and in calling for the expedited creation [sozdaniye] of space strike weapons.

The facts attest that even after Geneva this dangerous activity is not diminishing. According to news agency reports, the Brussels press conference was addressed by Lieutenant General James Abrahamson, director for implementing the SDI program, who stated the following: "Research within the SDI framework will be continued even if Washington and Moscow agree to significantly reduce strategic nuclear arms." And the large-scale deployment of a system of space strike arms could take place, according to the general, at the start of the nineties.

It follows from what Abrahamson said that reductions in nuclear arsenals will proceed at their own pace, as will the militarization of space. But in that case the general either does not understand or is deliberately distorting the Soviet position on these questions, since he cannot possibly be totally ignorant of it, if only on a professional basis. As the Soviet side has repeatedly stressed, any progress at the talks on radically reducing strategic nuclear arms is only possible if the door is slammed shut on putting weapons into space. Shut tight. The meaning of the very concept of reduction is lost if a new and highly dangerous spiral of the nuclear race is opened up.

This principled position of the Soviet Union's enjoys widespread support in the world. Space must be peaceful -- that is the peoples' demand. But the general is against that.

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SDI AND SPACE ARMS

TASS: SENATORS SUGGEST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN FOR SDI

LD192053 Moscow TASS in English 2019 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Washington, November 19 TASS -- The Lockheed concern will shortly begin a programme to develop and test an interceptor for a key element of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), writes the journal AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. This variety of space armaments represents a ground-launched missile intended to hit inter-continental ballistic missiles outside the earth's atmosphere. The contract is worth 400 million dollars.

The first test flight of a new version of the sea-launched Tomahawk cruise missile was carried out at the Tonopah proving ground in Nevada. According to the DEFENCE NEWS newspaper, the warhead of the new missile is intended for hitting targets distributed over large areas. Simultaneously, a new missile, HAVM, designed to destroy radar installations, was tested at the China Lake testing ground in California.

These facts show that the U.S. military-industrial complex is stepping up the development of new strategic first-strike nuclear systems and offensive space weapons. A consultant with a firm contracting for the Pentagon openly admitted in THE WASHINGTON POST that any easing of tension in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is bad for the military budget. There is a fear in the military-industrial circles, the newspaper points out, that the Soviet Union and the United States might agree on effective arms control. At stake is the potential loss of tens of billions of dollars.

Arms manufacturers are resorting to all levers of pressure in order to prevent the Soviet-American summit achieving fruitful results. Before Ronald Reagan's departure for Geneva, a group of right-wing senators sent him a letter urging him to reject the possibility of any compromise on the "star wars" programme. The senators linked with the military industrial complex declared that strike space armaments are too important to be limited at the development and production stages. They rejected in principle the advisability of concluding any agreements with the Soviet Union with a view to curbing the arms race, and insisted on stepping up work on the "star wars" programme. At the same time, the senators had to acknowledge with irritation that the "star wars" programme encounters strong protests of the world public, and suggested invigorating a propaganda campaign in its support.

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SDI AND SPACE ARMS

MOSCOW HITS WASHINGTON'S 'TWISTED INTERPRETATIONS' OF ABM TREATY

PM181646 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Nov 85 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Professor I. Lukashchuk by APN observer V. Arsentyev under the rubric "Specialist's Comment": "The ABM Treaty, Washington's Twisted 'Interpretations'"; place, date of interview not given; first paragraph is a SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] Before the Geneva summit meeting the U.S. Administration, unwilling to give up the "star wars" program, attempted to prove that President Reagan's "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI) is all but written into the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the limitation of ABM systems. At SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's request, APN observer V. Arsentyev met Professor I. Lukashchuk, doctor of juridical sciences and well known Soviet international law expert, and asked him to explain the meaning of Washington's "interpretations" of the ABM treaty.

[Arsentyev] How can one describe the recent "discoveries" by R. McFarlane, assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, that the undertakings given by the United States under the ABM treaty do not cover the creation [sozdaniye] of a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements?

[Lukashchuk] Mr McFarlane's "discoveries," which not a single eminent legal scholar managed to notice over a 13-year period, speak for themselves. They are primarily a desire to bend the treaty to make it fit the "star wars" plans. You don't have to be an authoritative specialist in international law to perceive this. Let us look at the treaty's specific articles. Under Article I, the sides undertook "not to deploy its country's ABM system and not to create [sozdavat] a base for such a defense," while under Article V they undertook not to "develop [sozdavat], test, or deploy ABM systems or components that are sea-based, air-based, space-based, or mobile land-based." The SDI program is most flagrantly at variance with the ABM treaty. First, because the issue concerns the creation [sozdaniye] of an ABM system for the entire U.S. territory. Second, we are talking about a space-based ABM system.

[Arsentyev] In trying to substantiate its "interpretations," the U.S. Administration often refers to the so-called "statement D," agreed to by the sides and appended to the treaty, which supposedly allows the creation [sozdaniye] of ABM means based on different principles of physics (lasers, directed energy beams, and so on).

[Lukashchuk] Even that document fails to support in any way the U.S. stance. According to "statement d," the research, development [razrabotka], and testing of ABM systems or their components based on different physical principles are allowed only in regions precisely defined by the treaty and only on stationary land-based systems. Furthermore, if one of the sides wishes to deploy new systems in these regions, it is entitled to do so only following preliminary consultations with the other side and submission of the relevant agreed amendments to the text of the treaty. Let us note that these additional limitations were formulated at the U.S. initiative.

[Arsentyev] Consequently, neither the treaty itself nor the acts accompanying it contain anything that could even slightly justify the U.S. "interpretations." What does international law have to say in this respect?

[Lukashchuk] International law contains a norm under which, if the interpretation of a treaty's text does not satisfy the sides, it is possible to resort to additional means of interpretation which include the circumstances in which the treaty was concluded, the protocols of the talks, and so on. In this instance the treaty's provisions are so clear that there is no need to resort to any additional means of interpretation. But even if one were to resort to these means, they do not support the U.S. "interpretations" either. There is hardly anyone who would doubt the knowledge of G. Smith, former leader of the U.S. delegation to the SALT talks with the USSR, concerning the circumstances in which the ABM Treaty was concluded. In an interview with AP he described the current "interpretations" of the treaty as absurd and declared that, when this act was being signed, both sides agreed that it bans the testing and creation [sozdaniye] of new space-based ABM systems.

All this leaves no doubt that Washington's "interpretations" of the treaty constitute a breach of this act and of such an important principle of international law as the conscientious discharge of undertakings. This fact has been asserted by many famous lawyers. For example, Cyrus Vance, former U.S. secretary of state and now professor of international law at a U.S. university, declared that Washington's new interpretation of the treaty is "absolutely incompatible" with its provisions.

[Arsentyev] What will be the effect of the U.S. Administration's stance regarding the ABM Treaty on international law?

[Lukashchuk] The use of arbitrary unilateral interpretation as a means to distort the content of international treaties is nothing new in imperialist practice. The fact that the ABM Treaty has been turned inside out on the other side of the Atlantic only goes to confirm the cynicism of the U.S. Administration's overall position regarding international law. It is prepared, for the sake of its selfish and extremely short-sighted goals, to gamble with the vital interests of its own people and of the peoples in other countries. After all, we are talking about a treaty that provides the base for strategic stability and international security, for the system of relations of peaceful coexistence in general. Apart from anything else, this system is the basis for modern international law. This is why the U.S. Administration's actions are fraught with a threat against international law and order as a whole.

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CSO: 5200/1166

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

SOVIET GEN YASHIN ON SPACE ARMS, DESIRE FOR PEACE

PM191442 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Nov 85 p 4

[Special correspondent N. Limonov interview with Colonel General Yu. Yashin, first deputy commander in chief of the Strategic Rocket Force "Atlases Supporting the Sky"--date and place unspecified, uppercase passages published in boldface]

[Excerpt] [Question] Yuriy Aleks yevich! Please comment from a military man's standpoint on these lines from the draft new edition of the CPSU Program: "...however great the threat to peace created by the policy of aggressive imperialist circles may be, **WORLD WAR IS NOT FATALLY INEVITABLE.**"

[Answer] Washington's aggressive adventurist course has led to a sharp exacerbation of the international situation and the growth of the real threat of a world nuclear missile war breaking out. Rampant anti-Sovietism in various forms has been increased to the maximum. Attempts are being made to mislead public opinion among the American people and the NATO countries with the myth of the "Soviet military threat," and Washington is whipping up the arms race on an unprecedented scale on the pretext of that camouflage.

And it is not just a question of building up the numbers of weapons and combat equipment but of creating qualitatively new and more destructive means of mass attack, which, in the Pentagon strategists' schemes, would make it possible to inflict a first, "disarming" strike on the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries and to win a nuclear missile war.

Preparations are under way for the creation [sozdaniye] of space strike arms. A large-scale ABM system with space-based elements is being developed [razrabatyvatsya]. Attempts are being made to turn space into a possible theater of military actions by waging "star wars" there. The main aim of this dangerous adventure is to try to shelter behind a space "shield" and deprive us of the possibility of inflicting an effective RETALIATORY strike. But can this terrible chariot's rush toward nuclear war -- that bottomless abyss, that catastrophe for world civilization -- be halted? Yes, it can and must be!

The 40 years since the great victory over fascism are historical confirmation of that possibility. The Soviet people, like all the world's peoples, do not need war. For even now spiritual wounds inflicted by war ache in almost every Soviet family. In Belorussia, apart from the well known war memorials, there are also the following: Three birth trees and a mountain ash alongside, its berries like drops of blood. It is a symbol -- one in every four Belorussians was killed.

Mankind knows that a desire for aggression and wars is profoundly alien to socialism.

The Soviet Armed Forces have never threatened anyone and have never been the first to take up weapons against other states and peoples. The essence of our military policy and doctrine lies in effective defense and nothing more.

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11 December 1985

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

FRG OFFICIALS DISAGREE ON SDI PARTICIPATION

Bangemann, Strauss Views

LD161409 Hamburg DPA in German 0006 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Excerpt] Bonn, 16 Nov (DPA)--According to Federal Economics Minister Martin Bangemann (FDP), the Federal Government will only decide in favor of an agreement on German participation in the SDI program if other European countries take part.

There must be a guarantee that it will be confined to pure research and that this research will also result in a technology transfer in favor of participating German firms, said Bangemann in an interview on Saarland radio.

If these three conditions, which have been agreed on in the Bonn coalition, are fulfilled -- which could probably be judged by the end of the year -- then the, in his opinion, secondary issue of what form German participation should assume must be examined. Here there are a series of problems which cannot be settled in individual agreements between German firms and the American authorities, for example questions of security. Technology transfer and other legal issues must be settled in such a way that they need not be laid down in each individual agreement.

Hannover: Bavarian Minister President and CSU Chairman Franz Josef Strauss has spoken in favor of European efforts in the sphere of space defense in close association with the SDI program. In an interview in the NEUE PRESSE which appears in Hannover (Saturday's edition), he said: "Not just for economic reasons, but also for alliance and security policy reasons arising out of the Soviet Union's incessantly aggressive secrecy, Europe must not opt out of military research." Strauss said that a "European defense initiative," closely tied in with SDI, should research into possibilities for intercepting and destroying medium- and short-range missiles and for destroying enemy tanks and fortified artillery and infantry positions from a great distance without nuclear weapons." In this sense, SDI and the European research initiative Eureka are not alternatives. "In different areas they research into ways and means serving the same goal: safeguarding our freedom."

Call for 'European Participation'

NC161258 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Excerpt] Bonn, Nov 16 (AFP) -- Two ministers in the Free Democratic Party, junior partner in the center-right governing coalition, said today that they opposed West

German participation in Washington's space-based Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI] unless other European countries also took part.

The reticent stand on President Ronald Reagan's research program into a defensive shield against nuclear missiles highlighted differences between the Free Democrats and the main governing party, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats.

Martin Bangemann, economics minister and leader of the Free Democrats, said West Germany should not "under any circumstances" be the sole European country to join in SDI. "In this important matter, we cannot take an individual stand in Europe," he told a radio interviewer in the state of Saarland.

The secretary of state for foreign affairs, Juergen Moelleman, told the NEUE OSNABRUECKER ZEITUNG that participation should be contingent on other European countries taking part and on limiting the program to research. He said Bonn should also ensure there was "a real transfer of technology benefiting West German companies," the newspaper said.

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CSO: 5200/2546

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

TASS: 'STRATEGIC PROBLEMS' VIEWED AT MUNICH SYMPOSIUM

LD210846 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2003 GMT 20 Nov 85

[Text] Bonn, 20 Nov (TASS) -- U.S. and NATO militarist circles are continuing to put pressure on the bloc's Western European member countries to get them in the U.S. "star wars" plans. This is eloquently shown by an "international on political and strategic problems," which has been taking place in Munich. The symposium was organized by the reactionary Hans Seidel Foundation which is close to the Christian Social Union party of big capital.

General B. Rogers, supreme commander in chief of NATO's joint armed forces in Europe, hastened to attend the Munich symposium. Voicing support for Washington's strategic defense initiative he stated that "there are weighty reasons in favor of the United States continuing to implement this concept." While advocating the militarization of space, the U.S. general demanded at the same time that implementation of these plans should not lead to a reduction in allocations for conventional armaments build-up as well.

A speech in a similar spirit was delivered by R. Burt, the U.S. ambassador to the FRG, who called on West European states to participate together with the United States in the "defense of vitally important Western interests" in different parts of the world. According to him, the countries of Western Europe should not make the U.S. alone bear the cost of defending those interest. The U.S. diplomat was lavish in his praise of the present FRG Government for its unconditional support for the U.S. course of building up armaments and U.S. plans to militarize space.

F.J. Strauss, chairman of the CSU, as always responded readily to the demands from across the ocean to support these plans. He called on the United States' NATO partners to "unconditionally" support the "star wars" program and advocated the concluding of an intergovernmental agreement with the United States which would serve as a basis for FRG participation in Washington's space adventure.

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CSO: 5200/1166

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

BEIJING REVIEW ON SIGNIFICANCE OF EUREKA

Beijing **BEIJING REVIEW** in English Vol 28, No 47, 25 Nov 85 pp 15-17, 20

[Article by Hu Jie]

[Text] **L**AST March the United States formally invited its Western allies to join its research programme for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars. Following the offer, in April French President Francois Mitterrand put forth proposals for a European alternative to the US programme. That programme, dubbed Eureka, though still in the conceptual stage, calls for a joint European effort to build a high-tech programme with space included. At the European Economic Community conference held in Milan in June, the multi-billion dollar plan found formal supporters. In July, 12 EEC countries, including Portugal and Spain, and five other non-EEC member nations, held a ministerial level meeting during which they announced their approval of and support for the still loosely defined Eureka project. At the second Eureka ministerial conference held in Hanover, Federal Germany, early this month, its 18 members including Turkey approved Eureka's declaration of principles and its first 10 projects. These moves mark Eureka's first practical steps.

Although SDI was not mentioned in the EEC's Eureka proclamation, to some observers the announcement revealed the degree to which Western Europe craves its military, economic and technological independence from the United States. To many the move also signalled the development of possible tensions between Western Europe and the United States. Moscow, which scorns Eureka almost as heartily as it does SDI, is closely scrutinizing Eureka's progress with hopes of somehow exerting an influence upon it. With the United States, the Soviet Union and Western Europe now all jockeying for position in space technology, a new factor has now come up in the already strained trilateral relations.

Eureka is also a major step of profound importance for a united and powerful Western Europe. Because of this, the fledgling plan has increasingly commanded international attention.

A Star Wars By-Product

Eureka is not an accidental development, but resulted from

European misgivings about an American monopoly on high-tech space research. A year after US President Ronald Reagan proposed SDI in March 1983, the US Congress approved the allocation of US\$26 billion for the project, while soon afterwards military and scientific institutes seemingly sprouted overnight to begin the required research. In proceeding so quickly, the United States awakened Western Europe. Though questioning the feasibility of SDI, it no longer considered the venture a mere mythical fantasy.

While SDI was being launched in the United States, Western Europe and the United States began a heated debate on strategic theory. Western Europe felt that by turning to the strategy of "space defence," the United States has created two protective zones in the Atlantic alliance. As such, the Europeans argue, the security of US territory is further strengthened, while the European theatre becomes even more exposed and vulnerable. This US-West European strategic disparity which had already cropped up when there was nuclear balance between the United States and the Soviet Union, becomes all the more serious with the debut of space-weaponry.

Feeling threatened by their strategic dislocation, some West European leaders have attempted at various stages to derail SDI. Their efforts, and their view of SDI in general, have had two effects. First, the United States has had to court its allies with explanations and concessions. And second, Soviet leaders also have gone stumping through the region, taking advantage of Western discord to promote its own alternatives in Western

Europe, and trying to put pressure on the Federal Republic of Germany, win over France and neutralize Great Britain with diplomatic overtures and trade offers.

At the beginning of 1983, after US and Soviet representatives decided to resume their Geneva arms reduction talks, Western Europe and Washington lowered the tenor of their polemics over space weaponry, and chose instead to co-ordinate their positions to oppose Moscow. In order to assure Western Europe, the Reagan administration revised its idea of strategic plan to include both defence and offence, rather than defence alone. Washington also pledged that its space weapons would defend its territory and that of Western Europe as well, and that the Kremlin would be consulted before such weapons were deployed. Though willing to make these concessions, Washington also stood firm in its resolve to proceed with SDI. In the face of US consolations and pressure, some West European countries acquiesced to support SDI out of consideration for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the fact that the Soviet Union has also been researching and manufacturing space weapons. Though unable to prevent the United States from carrying out its plan, Western Europe is not willing to form the "common front" with the Soviet Union. Therefore, some West European countries have readjusted their policies and declared support for SDI, while others have toned down their criticism.

After winning some support from Western Europe for SDI, the United States went further to ask its allies to join the programme

and to reply to the invitation by a certain date. At the same time, the United States also set up direct relations with nearly 100 West European industrial organizations and research institutes interested in SDI. Early on Washington appropriated US\$1 billion to foreign administrations to draw them into the research programme, while the department in charge of SDI is ready to accept a dozen organizations from five West European nations to join the related research projects. It was under such circumstances that the argument between Western Europe and the United States left the theoretical realm, and SDI became a realistic challenge to Western Europe.

According to its proponents, Eureka meets that challenge head on. Following Mitterrand's opening Eureka gambit, Washington became more solicitous. Now that Eureka had been hatched, the West European governments were no longer given a deadline for reply, while invitations to West European firms for participation and co-operation were further extended.

Challenging the Superpower Hold on Defence

Apart from its practical effects, the Eureka programme also has deep political, strategic and economic significance. As the embodiment of the European desire for political independence and high technology, Eureka also suggests a future joint defence of Western Europe.

The US demand for Europe's support in SDI is, by some accounts, Washington's way of forcing Western Europe to back US defence policy, and thereby meeting the US' strategic need. A US official once said Western Europe

should contribute financial and technological resources to SDI. By doing so, the official said, Western Europe would be protecting itself from "self-Finlandization." The remark, as indicative of the US government's view, shows that one of the political purposes of the United States in pursuing SDI is to further confine Western Europe.

The countries of Western Europe, however, want neither to be pawns of the US, nor victims of a possible conflicts between Washington and Moscow. What they want is a strategy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union different from the one the United States has offered.

Eureka reflects the differences that surfaced between the United States and Europe over the development of SDI. Although some West European countries support SDI, hoping it will curb the Soviet Union and force it to negotiate seriously for arms reduction, no countries in that region want to be involved in a stepped-up arms race. Eureka, an idea spurred by such thoughts, is, in fact, an expansion of the West European policy of detente and defence.

The space arm competition between the United States and the Soviet Union is a new page in the arms race history. Although nuclear arms will remain a mutual deterrent, the balance of military force, in the long range, will not only be decided by the quantity and quality of nuclear arms, but also, to an increasing extent, by each nation's ability to defend itself against nuclear attacks. The importance of outer space weaponry in defensive military strategy is ever increasing. If Western Europe hands over the outer space to the United States and the Soviet Union and lets them do what they like with it, non-nuclear countries will only

be further controlled by US-Soviet strategy, while Britain and France will simultaneously lose their nuclear deterrent abilities.

France and the Federal Republic of Germany have already co-operated to launch military reconnaissance satellites in order to monitor developments in outer space. France also established within its general staffs a special task force devoted to space defence. Eureka shows Western Europe's commitment to be on top of future changes in the strategic balance of power. Despite the purpose of the Eureka programme being for civil use, rather than for defence, the plan does not preclude military developments. Having such a plan and putting it into effect will also give Western Europe more input into the overall development of space technology.

The military challenge presented by SDI is both long and short term. The keenest competition these days is in the technological field. In the past, the Apollo Project took the lead in the development of new technology. Today the allocation of huge sums from the US government to American companies equipped to perform related research will also spur new defence and civil technology.

Technology Gap

The technological superiority of US companies has traditionally depended on national defence research and government contracts. SDI, therefore, will further strengthen the technological upper hand held by corporate America. In that case, the technological gap between Western Europe and the United States can be expected to widen. SDI has a strong appeal to West Europeans and could end up siphoning some of the area's financial, technological and personnel resources off to the United States,

turning Western Europe into a processing factory for US technology. Eureka, in trying to co-ordinate Western European technological efforts and enhance its competitive abilities, reflects the will of the region to prevent its brains and money from being drawn to the United States, as well as its desire to become self-reliant in technology.

From Drawing Board to Launching Pad

West European technical capabilities have been advancing. Some of the countries have made initial progress in transferring telecommunications and biological research. Successful spaceflight co-ordination between European nations has also enabled the members of Eureka to become competitors of the United States. Despite such progress however, Eureka remains an abstract concept that faces complex and potentially insurmountable problems. Those problems are currently being hotly debated among Eureka members.

Eureka is an important step in continued West European unity and development, even though it now appears to be merely a structure for technological co-ordination. While such vexing issues as budget and shareholding, standardization, and marketing need to be smoothed out before Eureka can be put into effect, the programme's effectiveness will depend on the members' abilities to reconcile their divergent political yearnings. The EEC members themselves have given quite varied degrees of approval to the Eureka programme. With its advanced space technology, France insists on carrying out the Eureka programme for political and strategic needs. The Federal Republic of Germany, the region's wealthiest country, however, hopes to take part in SDI in order

to improve its own political and defensive positions, but fears Washington will not take it on as an equal partner. Realizing that being the only West European nation working with the United States on SDI could be politically awkward, West Germany endorsed Eureka on the condition that the programme pursue merely civilian and commercial uses, and thus avoid conflicts with the United States. London, initially cool to Eureka, has become a supporter. However, because Britain's major scientific and technological departments have already had private post-war co-operation agreements with the United States, it is unable to spare much more time and effort on Eureka. Italy, which has given its political and diplomatic support to the European programme, is actually interested in only a limited area — computers in particular. Since West European countries, France included, cannot stop private companies in their own countries from joining the SDI programme, or from accepting orders or research contracts from Washington, Eureka may turn out simply to be a loosely-woven programme of technical research co-ordination.

The original proposal stipulated that Eureka be independent of existing West European institutions. However, Britain and Federal Germany vetoed the idea, saying that to set up new independent institutions to oversee Eureka's finances would be both costly and time-consuming. Having to part with the concept of a separate agency, and still faced with the need to find a flexible organization design, France and Belgium looked to the West European Union (WEU), in hopes that it would produce concrete support for Eureka. Once again, Federal Germany and Great Britain opposed the idea. As a military setup, they said, WEU

was not an appropriate organization to oversee Eureka, which is intended for civil use. The core to all these arguments is that Bonn and London are unwilling to rub Washington the wrong way.

Western Europe's advanced technological co-ordination within EEC faces many problems. First, the EEC will have to create corresponding budgets and common industrial and commercial policies for the programme. Second, some EEC members still refuse to join Eureka, claiming it could eventually be used for military purposes, while other EEC members may agree only to participate in individual research projects. Because of such divisiveness Eureka could suffer the same fate as the European strategic research programme in information technology — lack of sufficient EEC funding.

There are no clear, concrete steps the European community can take to surmount its Eureka hurdles. Glimmers of hope for co-ordinated efforts, however, have surfaced. Several large companies in France, Germany and the Netherlands have announced their intention to establish electronic industrial research co-operation in accordance with Eureka. French-German and French-Norwegian companies also have signed more than 10 such co-ordination contracts. As the first step to turn Eureka from a concept to a veritable plan, Western Europe must first decide on Eureka's strategic aims, organizational design and management methods.

Eureka will swallow 55 billion French francs within the next five years, French officials have estimated. But funding pledges for the project have not come easy. France once proposed that the participating enterprises and the

EEC divide the expenses for Eureka evenly. Under such an arrangement, the EEC, whose annual budget never allows more than US\$2 billion for scientific research, would have to double its allocation. More recently, France suggested that governments join the companies and the EEC in footing the bill for Eureka. This is one feasible method of bringing in more reliable capital. Turning this theory into practice, however, is another matter. Other member nations have suggested funding be handled by the European Investment Bank, enterprises and allocations from participating states, similar to what has been done in West European space co-operation.

Dream or Reality?

Compared to SDI, Eureka, still in its conceptual stage, is described by some analysts as little more than a dream. The developing course of Eureka, however, is one that could force the EEC to readjust its internal relations and elim-

inate blockades against co-operation, building Europe into another high-tech power. Problems, some petty, others enormous, will continue to arise over money and organization, as well as over technical criteria and marketing. In addition to having to contend with differences within the EEC, Eureka also places science and technological co-operation between the EEC and other West European countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Austria on the agenda. If the EEC opens its gates to these outsiders, overall economic co-operation could be promoted and a more unified West European market may result. The world waits to see how Western Europe will consolidate its ideas and efforts in creating the Eureka programme, and whether the programme will eventually lead to a pronounced crack in the region's relations with the United States, or if instead it will eventually become a "civilian" supplement to the SDI. ()

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CSO: 5200/4009

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

BRIEFS

FRG WARNED AGAINST SDI PARTICIPATION--Moscow's ambassador to Bonn, Vladimir Semenov, who yesterday handed over Gorbachev's letter to the chancellor's office, today warned of a worsening in USSR-FRG relations. He said that he visualizes a deep shadow being cast on relations should Bonn decide on an agreement with Washington about research into antimissile weapons in space. Semenov spoke at a press conference of the DKP in Bonn. [Text] [Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 30 Oct 85 DW] /9274

CSO: 5200/2537

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

TASS COMMENT ON NATO NUCLEAR-PLANNING GROUP MEETING IN BRUSSELS

'Run-of-the-Mill Phrases'

LD310513 Moscow TASS in English 0456 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Text] Moscow, October 30 TASS--TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The two-day session of the NATO Nuclear-Planning Group, which has ended in Brussels, was keynoted by growing anxiety of U.S. West European allies over attempts of the Reagan administration's representatives to diminish the significance of the problem of limitation and reduction of armaments at the coming Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva.

Success or lack of success at the Geneva meeting in the eyes of the world public opinion will be linked with its progress in the field of limitation of nuclear armaments, wrote the London newspaper SUNDAY TIMES. The newspaper NEW YORK TIMES stresses that the attempt of the U.S. Administration to divert the public attention from problems of disarmament at the coming summit meeting was undertaken without taking into account demands of the Europeans.

According to Western press report, chief of the Pentagon Caspar Weinberger burst into feverish activity at the session of the NATO defence ministers and undertook desperate efforts to put to doubt the USSR's large-scale proposals on nuclear and space armaments and to discredit the very idea of agreement with the Soviet Union. A conclusion can be made that his efforts were crowned only with partial success this time.

In a communique, which was issued in Brussels, the participants in the session reiterated run-of-the-mill phrases on "Atlantic solidarity" and "flexibility" of the American stand at the negotiations with the USSR, and expressed "hope" that the recent Soviet peace initiatives "indicate a Soviet willingness to accept verifiable and equitable arms control agreements."

Contrary to the efforts of the chief of the Pentagon who sought to prove that disarmament problems played a minor role, the session "welcomed the opportunity for effective arms control offered by the Geneva negotiations."

Greece expressed its views in a statement included in the minutes. Denmark reserved its position on the INF part. American news agencies stress that the defence ministers did not note in the communique that they supported the U.S. "Star Wars" research work.

The Brussels session has shown that the military leaders of the European NATO countries are experiencing to a still greater extent pressure from the public who demand that an end be put to the reckless arms race.

UK Paper Cited

L020949 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] London November 1 TASS--The meeting in Brussels of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group has ended in a "diplomatic lie", says the article published in the GUARDIAN today. Albeit the ministers declared in their joint communique that Ronald Reagan was going to talk with Mikhail Gorbachev "with the full support and solidarity of the alliance", the newspaper said, "The U.S. President goes to the summit almost alone with his vision of a world made safe from nuclear weapons--long after his own death--by strategic star wars defences."

"It would be literally impossible to find a single scientist or politician familiar with complex military systems who believes in Reagan's original vision of a perfect strategic defence which makes nuclear weapons impotent. Common sense demonstrates that his vision is illusory," the GUARDIAN stresses. Nevertheless the American representatives have succeeded by means of various hypocritical arguments in winning support for Reagan's initiatives by the Nuclear Planning Group.

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CSO: 5200/1160

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG'S KOHL RECEIVES LETTER FROM REAGAN ON U.S. PROPOSALS

'Aspects Covered in Negotiations'

LD011210 Hamburg DPA in German 1127 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Bonn, 1 Nov (DPA) -- U.S. President Reagan has briefed Federal Chancellor Kohl about the Americans' new disarmament proposals for the Geneva negotiations in a personal letter.

Government spokesman Friedhelm Ost in Bonn today described these proposals as important and said they covered every aspect of the negotiations: namely strategic weapons, medium-range missiles, and defensive and space weapons. The United States was thus underlining its seriousness and determination to bring about a successful outcome to the Geneva summit meeting between Reagan and Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev. An improved and more viable basis for East-West relations has thus been created.

Ost, who did not go into detail about the U.S. initiative, said the proposals that have now been submitted by the two superpowers have opened the door to (?further) negotiations. They should lead to balanced and verifiable arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. "The paramount goal of these negotiations (?is the) drastic reduction of nuclear offensive potential."

Bonn's major interest continues be medium-range nuclear missiles. Now that the Soviet Union has also agreed to a separate agreement on this category of weapons, the Federal Government hopes that a [word indistinct] agreement which takes into account European security interests can be negotiated on the basis of the new U.S. proposals.

Ost said that with their proposals the Americans have taken into consideration an important concern of the Federal Government and the allies. Federal Chancellor Kohl and Federal Foreign Minister Genscher had repeatedly urged that the Soviet proposal should be responded to at an early date with new and concrete proposals. The consultations and coordination in the alliance has thus been proven successful and the cohesion of the alliance has been demonstrated.

Arms Proposals Viewed 'Positively'

LD011113 Hamburg DPA in German 1016 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Bonn, 1 Nov (DPA) -- President Reagan's new offer -- details of which are not yet known -- in response to the Soviet proposals on the reduction of the nuclear

weapons arsenals of the United States and the USSR is assessed positively by the Federal Government.

The head of the Chancellor's Office, Wolfgang Schaeuble (CDU) said in a radio interview with a northern German radio today that the Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev had made proposals which Reagan has responded to "with his own constructive [weiterfuehrend] American proposals." Schaeuble sees this as proof that Federal Chancellor Kohl's policy has been [words indistinct]. Kohl had been the first to press for such a summit meeting and had repeatedly urged Gorbachev and Reagan to hold a meeting in Geneva.

Schaeuble stressed that intra-German relations are integrally linked to the whole field of East-West relations. In the past 3 years progress has been made in intra-German relations despite a difficult phase in international politics. This applies to visitors' traffic, the reuniting of families, and (?rulings) on environmental protection.

Schaeuble refused to speculate on a possible visit by GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker to the FRG. "We have not received any sort of signals from the GDR," he said. It is up to Honecker whether he wants to take up his standing invitation.

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CSO: 5200/2537

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

GORBACHEV LETTER TO KOHL DISCUSSES 'DISARMAMENT ISSUES'

LD301528 Hamburg DPA in German 1450 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Bonn, 30 Oct (DPA) -- Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev has explained the Soviet Union's ideas on the problems in disarmament in a letter to Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Thus, he has replied to a 30 August 1985 letter from the chancellor.

Addressing the press in Bonn today, government spokesman Friedhelm Ost declined to speak about the contents of the Gorbachev letter, pointing to the confidentiality agreed upon. He merely said that the German and Soviet sides are interested in a continuation of an exchange of views, in view of the preparations for the summit meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev on 19 and 20 November in Geneva. Ost used several times the term of "constant dialogue" between Bonn and Moscow, about which Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who recently met with Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in New York, has also spoken.

Contrary to expectations in Bonn, Kohl did not report to the cabinet about Gorbachev's letter, about which the Foreign Ministry was informed.

The letter was handed over yesterday to Kohl's foreign policy adviser Horst Teltchik in the chancellery by Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Semenov.

Press reports, apparently emanating from Soviet sources, according to which Gorbachev's letter comments on disarmament in intercontinental and medium-range missiles and on the U.S. SDI research project for a missile defense in space, were described by Ost as speculation. Supposedly, the drastic reduction of offensive weapons offered by the Soviets is said again to be linked in the letter to the renunciation of the SDI plans.

Ost asserted that the chancellor regards the prospects for the Geneva summit "with subdued optimism." He has repeatedly expressed this view. Speculation that Gorbachev might have commented in his reply on the invitation to visit the Federal Republic, which has been reiterated by Kohl, was rejected with reference to the fact that the letter is devoted exclusively to disarmament issues.

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CSO: 5200/2537

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG'S GENSCHER, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSS SUMMIT

LD161232 Hamburg DPA in German 1002 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Bonn, 16 Nov (DPA) -- The Federal Government hopes that the summit meeting in Geneva next week between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev will follow a constructive line. This expectation was expressed by Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) in a talk with Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Semenov. Genscher met Semenov at the latter's express wish on Saturday to discuss the summit.

The Foreign Ministry further announced that the Federal Government hopes that the existing proposals for reductions in strategic weapons and medium-range nuclear missiles will make it possible to embark on a phase of substantial negotiations in Geneva with the aim of drastically reducing nuclear potential. The government also regards progress in all other arms control and disarmament issues as necessary. In his talk with the Soviet ambassador, Genscher referred to the need to impose a world-wide ban on chemical weapons.

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CSO: 5200/2546

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG'S KOHL COMMENTS ON GENEVA SUMMIT

LD171523 Hamburg DPA in German 1436 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Bonn, 17 Nov (DPA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl sees the forthcoming USSR-U.S. summit in Geneva as a "fateful hour" and the opportunity to reduce tensions between East and West. Whether it would be used as such he did not yet know, Kohl said on Sunday in an interview with the German second television channel program "Bonn Perspectives". He could only hope that both sides grasp "that each must make a move, that it is not a question of gaining ground (prestige at the expense of the other) but of letting reason hold sway".

Kohl stressed he did not overestimate the importance of the meeting and was quite realistic. However, already in the lead-up to the meeting, which he has always strongly advocated, there had been a good deal of movement. The Germans more than others concerned need a reduction in East-West tensions.

Regarding the discussion on the U.S. SDI research program, Kohl said he was convinced the Geneva summit would not have come about without the discussion and the desire to conduct SDI research. (In reply to the question whether he could conceive of a result in Geneva which could make German participation in SDI with official government blessing, superfluous, Kohl said that this was the point of the Bonn timetable of making a decision made by the end of the year.) It was true that "Geneva is naturally significant for our (?considerations)".

Kohl stressed once more that an improvement in general relations between East and West would have an affect on the Federal Republic's relations with Eastern countries and with the GDR. In recent weeks he had many unofficial contacts with individual capitals, including Prague, Budapest and East Berlin. He had received the message from these capitals that there was interest on the part of the Warsaw Pact, too, "that Geneva might bring a positive, calming trend".

Regarding speculation about the date of a visit by GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker, Kohl repeated that the invitation, which Honecker had in principle accepted, still stands. It is up to Honecker to say when he wanted to come.

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CSO: 5200/2546

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG PRESS COMMENT ON NATO, GENEVA SUMMIT

TV Commentary

DW311141 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2130 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Commentary by Peter Staisch]

[Text] It has been a long time since we have had such a decisive phase in security policy as we have now, comparable perhaps to the SALT process -- the Nixon-Brezhnev summit in the early seventies when the bid for strategic arms limitation began. What has remained intact to this day are the ABM treaty and SALT II.

The NATO Nuclear Planning Group in its deliberations properly took a look at those very treaties. The NATO defense ministers accuse the Soviet Union of violating those treaties through new weapons developments, such as SS-25 missiles, or through large radar installations such as that in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, which could easily be expanded into a red "star wars" program.

The defense ministers carefully prepared for this meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group and made their points well. In addition to the charges just mentioned was the publication of a U.S. study according to which the Soviet Union has deployed chemical weapons in at least 32 sites in Europe. The precarious part of it is that the sites are located primarily in the CSSR and GDR. Even if such studies are treated with caution, any proposals for the discussion of zones free from chemical weapons in Central Europe, as recently advanced by the GDR, nevertheless appear to be hardly serious or helpful.

It would be a step in the right direction if the United States were to withdraw all nuclear mines from the FRG. This sort of unilateral disarmament step was also a Brussels decision. Yet, in one field the defense ministers of the Nuclear Planning Group had a hard time. They would indeed like to counter Gorbachev's offer before the Geneva summit to reduce strategic offensive weapons by 50 percent, but they did not manage to play the trump card, which, in NATO must be played jointly -- supporting with conviction the U.S. SDI research in space.

The Western alliance, ladies and gentlemen, must be careful not to make any false move anymore in the Geneva summit chess game being played by the political psychologists. Quite a lot has, after all, been set into motion. Gorbachev has written a letter to Kohl. Reagan will be the first U.S. President in 24 years to grant an interview to Soviet journalists tomorrow, after Gorbachev spoke in no uncertain terms to TIME the other day. Only he who keeps cool in this so very decisive phase of the chess game will continue to profit from the security stalemate and avoid a security checkmate.

DIE WELT Assessment

DW311151 Bonn DIE WELT in German 31 Oct 85 p 1

[Report by Count Brockdorff: "Bonn Substantiates Statement on SDI"]

[Excerpt] Brussels -- Defense Minister Manfred Woerner commented clearly at the Brussels NATO defense ministers meeting on the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program.

He summarized the statement he gave to the ministers in the following sentence: "I expressed on behalf of the FRG that the Luxembourg statement by NATO's Nuclear Planning Group remains fully valid."

At a Luxembourg Nuclear Planning Group meeting of NATO defense ministers on 27 March, the NATO members' support of the SDI research program was stressed. The ministers said: "In this connection we welcome the United States asking the allies to consider participating in the research program." Woerner said in the autumn meeting that the Luxembourg communique would remain valid, independent of any new statement that might refer to SDI.

NATO paid close attention to Woerner's statement, which was given in the name of the Federal Government. It was generally considered an indirect disassociation from Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who, according to Brussels interpretations, recently used the opportunity to tone down the Federal Government's positive attitude toward the SDI project, and particularly make conditional government-supported German participation in the SDI program.

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CSO: 5200/2537

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG'S BRANDT EXAMINES GENEVA SUMMIT IN INTERVIEW

DW191020 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1810 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Interview with SPD Chairman Willy Brandt by correspondent Olaf Buhl in Bonn on 17 November, in the "Bonner Perspektiven" program -- recorded]

[Text] [Buhl] Mr Brandt, was the SPD's criticism of the NATO two-track decision and SDI wrong? Is it not true that those who say that it was the Pershing-2, the cruise missiles, and SDI that brought the Soviets to the negotiating table were right?

[Brandt] I do not know whether the riddle about the chicken and the egg will do much good. We have always proceeded from the premise that unless a catastrophe occurs in the meantime, the two would have to sit down together again, but they are doing it after the weapons arsenals on both sides have increased. For us, in our part of the world, I fail to see that security has been enhanced as a result of the fact that we have received the additional weapons you refer to, and the other has deployed counter-weapons in the GDR and the CSSR. But it is important indeed that they will be talking.

[Buhl] You have called the arms race and hunger in the world organized madness. Do you see in the Geneva summit a chance for organized reason?

[Brandt] I very much hope so. I do not believe that they will talk much about world hunger. It would mean a lot, though, if they would discuss the prevention of increasingly more East-West conflicts from being exported to the Third World. That is one point. The other is, I would say, in place of organized reason it would be great progress if it became clear that in reality nowadays there is only common security in the world.

[Buhl] Do you, Mr Brandt, see German interests and concerns adequately represented in Geneva by the U.S. President?

[Brandt] I do not doubt the U.S. President's goodwill. But leaving him aside, the danger exists that European and German interests will not be taken as seriously as we are bound to wish they were. For that reason, it is necessary to take great care that the specific issue of arms buildup by both sides in Europe are considered important. The important questions will be: Will the meeting of the two chiefs result in something that looks like instructions to those who will then negotiate further, and what role will Europe play in that connection? We will know the answers a few days from now.

[Muhl] My last question: Who do you think prevailed in the White House in the period before the summit, the hawks or the doves?

[Brandt] Supposing it is possible to reduce it to such a simple denominator, I do have the clear impression that those who do not wish to intensify matters too much have had more influence.

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CSO: 5200/2546

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

FRG FDP'S MOELLEMANN CALLS FOR SDI DISCUSSION

LD271430 Hamburg DPA in German 1242 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Wuppertal, 27 Oct (DPA) -- In the view of Juergen Moellemann (FDP), the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. SDI research program must be a subject at the Geneva disarmament negotiations. If the United States continues to confront the Soviet Union away from the GENEVA negotiations with the fact of a "space dimension in arms affairs," the Warsaw Pact's readiness for disarmament will be threatened, Moellemann warned on Sunday at a conference of North Rhine-Westphalian Young Liberals in Wuppertal.

On the question of the attitude of the FDP to German participation in SDI, the minister of state said that his party will measure the project against the aim of ending the arms race on earth and preventing its expansion to space. He called on his party "to discuss the subject of SDI dispassionately" and appealed to the Federal Government not to neglect investment in civilian research, such as the European Eureka project. He strongly rejected accusations that the Federal Republic was allowing doubts to arise within NATO about its loyalty to the alliance as a result of caution in supporting SDI.

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CSO: 5200/2537

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

PERU: EDITORIAL ASSESSES REAGAN-GORBACHEV SUMMIT

PY300110 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Nov 85 p 20

[Editorial: "Geneva: The Balance of a Stellar Show"]

[Text] The echoes of the first meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have begun to fade and the time has come to balance what was achieved at this encounter, despite the "blackout" [in English] that both parties have voluntarily imposed on what was discussed during these 6 hours of direct contact at Geneva.

As many observers had said in advance, no spectacular agreement that would permit us to nourish hopes of a radical change in the respective world-hegemony strategies of the United States and the Soviet Union has come out of the commit. The proof: The only document signed is an agreement on cultural exchanges and cooperation.

However, there are various indications that allow one to suppose that this great stellar show has not been useless. At least Reagan and Gorbachev have been able to talk of their disagreements face to face without going through intermediaries of their respective propaganda apparatuses. And each of them will have noted the emphasis, greater or lesser, with which certain matters were treated.

We do not believe that either of them could have been surprised at the remarks of the other: Spy satellite activities have long permitted very exact date on the location, number, and deployment capacity of the respective arsenals. And in the future the possibility of the installation of the network of electronic weapons which has been given the name "Star Wars" will continue to be the biggest cause of concern to the Soviets. Reagan's statements on this topic probably have not helped to calm Gorbachev.

However, there are some aspects of the session--which in sports jargon could be called a "warm-up"--that leave room for some optimism, beginning with the joint statement which declares it impossible for there to be any victory based on the nuclear predominance of one power over the other. This statement, which is evident to military specialists, takes on special value when heard from the mouths of the two leaders. In this way the "balance of terror" which has been a paradoxical factor for peace in recent decades, has been abolished.

The second positive element is the establishment of a busy schedule for direct contacts. And here there really is evolution in respect to the behavior of the superpowers in recent years. Now it seems that Reagan and Gorbachev will see each other at least once each year: In 1986, Reagan will host the Soviets in the United States, and in 1987 Gorbachev will reciprocate in Moscow.

This is very useful. The expectations that will be raised in the Russian and American peoples and the pressure from world public opinion should result in the two positions, which are today so far apart, coming closer in certain concrete aspects. Points of tension, such as Central America, Afghanistan, the Middle East, etc, which were absent from the present discussion, will begin to be dealt with. And the same could happen on the number of missiles and divisions with both NATO and the Warsaw Pact have deployed in Europe.

But even if the disagreements persist, it is indisputable that this type of encounter causes a significant lessening of tensions in international relations, a factor that should not be disdained. The mere appearance of the image and ideas of the U.S. President and the CPSU general secretary on the televisions of the other superpower introduces a new dynamics and destroys stereotypes that have been laboriously cultivated. Maybe this is not the essential thing, but without doubt it contributes to mutual understanding, however relative or questionable it may appear.

Both Reagan and Gorbachev went on to report to their NATO and Warsaw Pact allies on the results immediately after the Geneva meeting. They were able to assure them that nothing had changed. The deployment of the Pershing and Cruise missiles in the NATO countries will continue, and the Soviet Union will continue to deploy its equivalent missiles in Eastern Europe. Nicaragua will continue to be harassed by "contras" financed by the Americans, and the Afghan resisters will continue to pay the cost of defending their country from the Soviet invaders.

But miracles were not expected from this meeting, and a turnaround in the situations in these areas would have been just that. However, above the seriousness of the tension in some places on our planet, a tenuous hope for improvement has been opened up. The road will be long and the silences of Geneva indicate that the possibilities for agreement are slight. "Better a secure peace than a hoped-for victory," Roman historian Tito Livio wrote nearly 2,000 years ago. Will the leaders of the superpowers understand this some day? It is still too early to say.

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CSO: 5200/2008

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

PERU: DAILY NOTES MIXED RESULTS OF SUMMIT

PY292320 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Nov 85 p 42

[Editorial: "The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit"]

[Text] At a high-level summit that has just ended, the chiefs of government of the most powerful nations on earth held talks, taking advantage of a favorable environment, on the problems and differences between their respective countries. Because they are such great powers, their problems and differences cannot but affect the state of affairs throughout the world.

In an agenda necessarily restricted to the points of greatest importance, undoubtedly the disarmament topic was given special importance and drew the attention of all the countries of the planet with a mixture of anguish and hope.

Although it is obviously premature to draw definitive conclusions from that historic meeting, the results of which are likely to be made known gradually and even cautiously perhaps, some preliminary conclusions can be made in light of some commentaries and facts that are in the public domain.

In view of the above considerations, the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev has had limited success.

In fact, in addition to the two leaders' personal exposure and studied gestures of reciprocal cordiality, the joint communique they issued at the end of their talks tersely says: "We agreed to cooperate so that nuclear war can be avoided, and announce that summits will be held in the next 2 years."

These are well-meaning generalities that were fully anticipated; they do not add anything new. If anything, they just defer the questions to future summits.

Much more explicit and not very reassuring are the lines of the communique that follow the quote above and that sharply say: "Serious differences remain." Undoubtedly and unfortunately, this refers to the impossibility of reaching an agreement on the control of nuclear and space arms programs.

We cannot capriciously put in doubt the goodwill of both world leaders, nor can we doubt the seriousness of their concern about questions that may affect

the very survival of the human race. Setting aside this tragic prospect, we should not assume that they are insensitive to the terrible social and economic cost of those programs, which, if eliminated, would liberate immense quantities of money with which the ever more afflicted humanity can be assisted.

What in our opinion is most serious is that the "impasse" seems to result from irreconcilable and uncompromising ideological positions.

We cannot fail to notice, however, that the meeting has signified the improvement of relations between the two major powers in other areas. Thus, they have agreed to reduce the nuclear risk, speed up talks on nuclear and space issues, initiate dialogue to prevent proliferation of chemical weapons, contribute to the preservation of the environment, and, what could be very important in the future, to broaden educational exchanges in order to bring about closer rapport between the two nations. They may have not plowed the sea, after all.

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CSO: 5200/2008

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

PERUVIAN NEWSPAPER VIEWS SUMMIT'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENT

PY292017 Lima EL DIARIO MARKA in Spanish 23 Nov 85 p 7

[Editorial: "The Mutual Promise of Geneva"]

[Text] The Geneva summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan ended with the mutual promise of broad cooperation to prevent a nuclear war. However, some disagreements still prevail on several critical points, including those referring to the militarization of space, and regional conflicts.

The impossibility of winning a presumed nuclear war has been the real spirit of the Geneva talks. In this regard, security of mankind has been guaranteed because the USSR and the United States have pledged to safeguard peace, understanding that a nuclear war could nover be unleashed because after a war, there can be no winners or losers, but total destruction on the planet. The catastrophic consequences of a possible conflict between the two world powers have been studied in such a manner that an agreement has been reached, perhaps the most important of the meeting, to prevent any war between the United States and the USSR, whether nuclear or conventional.

This, in the development of the talks, an immediate conclusion can be predicted to the degree that no arms race will be conducted with the purpose of gaining military superiority. In this context, the agreement to maintain continuous talks between the most powerful nations in the world, and the visit that Reagan and Gorbachev will make to Moscow and Washington, respectively, is a positive indication and a serious desire to find solutions to critical problems in the world.

Notwithstanding the reciprocal positions of understanding, strong disagreements on basic matters still prevail, especially regarding existing conflicts in concrete world zones. In these cases we find it indispensable to being with the causes of the tensions and conflicts, respecting the rights of the peoples to choose their own development means.

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CSO: 5200/2008

JPRS-TAC-85-063
11 December 1985

INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO COMMENT ON NEW CRUISE ARRIVALS

LD181438 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1412 GMT 18 Nov 85

[By defense correspondent David Wallen]

[Text] CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament] today accused the government of a "cynical slap in the face" for the Geneva summit following the arrival of new missiles and warheads at Greenham Common. People near the base saw a U.S. Starlifter cargo aircraft land and what were believed to be warheads unloaded this morning. Yesterday two Galaxy aircraft landed and two launcher vehicles were unloaded as well as a cruise convoy control vehicle, and on Friday two Galaxies landed and at least eight missiles were seen being unloaded.

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment on the new arrivals today, saying "we don't discuss the influx of cruise missiles." A total of 96 are due to be sited at the Berkshire base to be followed by a further 64 at Molesworth, the scene of other activity today. Workmen there are erecting a new high security entrance and improving the perimeter fence. A woman who lives near the Greenham Common base and anti-cruise campaigner said: "I saw the deliveries and it is unusual to see so much come in over such a short period of time, especially on a Sunday."

CND said the last major delivery of new missiles to Greenham Common occurred last December when 16 were flown in. It added: "The government escalation of its cruise deployment programme at Molesworth and Greenham this weekend is a cynical slap in the face for the Geneva summit. Britain has not only refused to put its nuclear weapons into the Geneva negotiations but with this escalation it appears to be doing its utmost to sour the atmosphere of the talks, this at a time when the world is looking for genuine moves towards disarmament."

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CSO: 5240/15

CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

TASS NOTES U.S., NATO OPPOSITION TO CBW PROHIBITION

LD161511 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0450 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Report by TASS correspondent V. Chernyshev: "Obstruction"]

[Text] New York, 16 Nov (TASS) -- As soon as the time comes to progress from words to action, the United States openly impedes efforts by the international community on disarmament and reducing the threat of an all-consuming military conflict. This came out quite clearly during voting on a series of draft resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

Thus, the United States headed a small group of NATO bloc partners who voted against the draft resolution prohibiting chemical and bacteriological weapons, which was approved by an overwhelming majority of votes. The document, which was accepted on the initiative of the socialist states, including the Soviet Union, expresses the conviction that there is a need for the immediate conclusion of a convention on banning the development [razrabotka] production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Also not to Washington's liking was the specific appeal to all states conscientiously to conduct talks on banning these barbarous weapons and to refrain from any actions that might make them more difficult and in particular to refrain from the production and deployment [razvertyvaniye] of binary and other new types of chemical weapons and from deploying [razvertyvaniye] them on the territory of other states.

Washington was also in disagreement with the draft resolutions put forward by the socialist and nonaligned states on the holding of a disarmament week and a worldwide campaign for disarmament. These documents express concern at the further intensification of the arms race especially the nuclear arms race and the approaching danger of its being spread into space which creates a serious threat for international peace and security. In connection with this, the international community called on the governments of all states and primarily those possessing nuclear weapons to take account of the demands of the mass movements for peace and disarmament on all continents in favor of ceasing and turning back the arms race. But it is precisely these hopes of the peoples of the world, confirmed by the overwhelming majority of votes in the First Committee, which diverge from the aims of Washington whose representative very meaningfully "abstained" during the voting.

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CSO: 5200/1162

RELATED ISSUES

USSR WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE' 24 NOV 85

LD242040 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 24 Nov 85

["International Observers Roundtable" program with All-Union Radio commentators Nikolay Ivanovich Agayants, Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, and Vitaliy Sergeyevich Sobolev]

Assessment of Summit

[Excerpts][Sobolev] Hello comrades, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's meeting in Geneva with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and its results are, as they say, on everyone's lips: 'and certainly not just on those of foreign political observers and diplomats. This very important international event, without exaggeration, affects every person on earth. In talking of its significance, they invariably note that the two countries' leaders met for the first time in 6 and 1/2 years, the time that has passed since the SALT II treaty was signed, which, in fact, has not been ratified by the U.S. side. Relations between our two countries have deteriorated noticeably during these years. The threads of economic, cultural, and scientific ties that link us -- what they term the living fabric of detente -- have been repeatedly torn. And the United States has simultaneously unleashed not simply a new twist in the arms race; it has not just set about renewing the whole of its conventional and nuclear arsenal, but has embarked upon preparing for an arms race in a new sphere, in space. It was obvious just how far the militarization of the economy and even of political thinking in that country had gone. But one also cannot fail to mention the fact that in concert with the strengthening of the positions of the hawks -- as our Western colleagues call them -- in the Washington leadership, the conviction that things cannot and must not go on like that has also been gaining in strength in some U.S. and in other bourgeois countries' political circles, but most of all among the international public. And, if we speak of the public, the public has been stating this increasingly vociferously.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has always applied maximum effort for the sake of improving the international situation. The Soviet leadership understood well that the world situation was too dangerous to ignore even the slightest chance of putting the situation right and moving forward toward a more stable and firm peace. As Comrade Gorbachev said, it considered it essential to try to break the dangerous course of events by force of argument, by force of example, by force of common sense. The very complexity of the international situation convinced us that direct talks with the U.S. President were essential. The responsibility of both the Soviet Union and the United States and of their political leaders is naturally enormous by virtue of the major role that these states play, and it must be said that our country has always attached proper significance to the great art of living together.

'Importance' of Soviet-U.S. Ties

[Agayants] As is known, the United States recognized the Land of the Soviets later than many other capitalist powers -- only in 1933 -- while, from the very first steps of our state, born in the fire of October, the government, with Lenin at its head, did everything possible to start talks with the United States for a normalization of both political and economic relations. I recall that the Soviet Government directly addressed a peace proposal to U.S. President Wilson on 24 December 1918; but it was rejected. Similar proposals also were made in January 1919; but they, too, were not answered.

Vladimir Ilich received Bullitt, a representative of President Wilson who had come to Moscow, in March 1919. However, these talks unfortunately were also without result. Washington refused to accept our proposals. Comrade Lenin particularly stressed during those years: We are resolutely in favor of agreement with the United States, he wrote, with all countries, but particularly with the United States. This is proved historically. The Soviet state has always attached great importance to the establishment and development of relations with the United States based upon equal rights and mutual advantage.

And, it is not our fault that this often has not come about. We have realized and we do realize that the state of Soviet-U.S. relations is of enormous importance not just for both countries' peoples but for a general improvement in the international political situation, for strengthening peace on earth and lessening existing tension. Therefore, we believe it to be useful to expand those areas in Soviet-U.S. relations which, without departing from our foreign policy principles, will make it possible to establish mutually advantageous cooperation in the interests of both countries and of the whole of mankind.

This precise, clear, consistent course, free of all quibble and variation according to changing circumstances, is reflected in such an important document as the draft new edition of the CPSU Program, which has now been put forward in our country by our party for discussion by the whole people. It says the following: The CPSU favors normal and stable Soviet-U.S. relations which presuppose noninterference in internal affairs, respect for each other's legitimate interests, recognition of the principle of identical security and its implementation in practice, and the establishment of as much mutual trust as possible upon this basis. I believe it is also important to stress this: Differences in social systems, differences in ideology, are certainly not a reason for tense relations.

As in the past, there are now objective prerequisites for establishing mutually advantageous and fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the United States in different areas and different spheres of human activity. We are deeply convinced -- and this was once again confirmed at the meeting in Geneva between Comrade Gorbachev and Reagan -- that both powers' policies must be based upon mutual understanding and not upon enmity.

[Sobolev] It is understandable why the news that a meeting between the two countries' leaders had been fixed aroused enormous interest everywhere and gave rise to hopes that events will take a turn for the better. But not as far as everyone was concerned, naturally. In the United States itself, and primarily within the military concerns and their political lobby, they would have preferred if this meeting had not taken place. These forces undertook all types of measures to try to bring down the level of results achieved. One can say with confidence that the pessimistic attitude that dominated within the Western press was engendered and warmed up by the military-industrial complex' propagandists. One could not avoid seeing this and hearing it. As is known, they had a good idea of the true situation in the Soviet Union and did not hold even the slightest illusions about U.S. policy.

Pre-Summit Proposals

But our country made every effort to create a favorable climate for the Geneva meeting. The Soviet leader noted not long before it started that the Soviet side is not going to Geneva empty-handed.

[Levin] I would like to recall the fact that the Soviet Union unilaterally broke off the further siting of medium-range missiles in Europe and called upon the United States to respond in the same manner. We stopped carrying out all nuclear explosions and called upon the United States to follow our example.

Finally, while on the official visit to France Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev put forward several more very important and far-reaching constructive proposals. The Soviet Union put a proposal to the U.S. Government that agreement should be reached on completely banning space strike armaments from both sides and on reducing their nuclear armaments capable of reaching each other's territory by a truly radical amount -- by 50 percent. New proposals were also put forward on the question of medium-range nuclear means in Europe. In order to make it easier to reach an accord on mutually reducing them as quickly as possible, the Soviet Union considered it possible to express a willingness to conclude an appropriate agreement separately and not directly linked to the problem of space and strategic armaments. In addition to this, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev recalled in his address to French parliamentarians that the Soviet Union had declared a moratorium on the siting of medium-range missiles in Europe.

He announced that the number of SS-20 missiles, which the Soviet Union has on alert duty in the European zone, amounts to 243 units at the present time, which corresponds to the June 1984 level, that is, when the additional siting of Soviet missiles was started in response to the installation of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. And the SS-20 missiles which had been deployed to counter the siting of the U.S. missiles have been removed from alert duty, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said in Paris, while the fixed installations for siting these missiles will be dismantled within the next 2 months. These Soviet peace initiatives show that we are not just talking of our desire to strengthen peace and to solve the problem of ending the arms race; rather, we have confirmed our willingness in concrete actions to move along the path of lowering the level of military confrontation as far as we possible can. But, alas, the United States did not accept one of our proposals prior to Geneva. It did not follow our example of introducing a moratorium on carrying out nuclear explosions. The siting of U.S. missiles in Europe continued.

And, in addition to this, attention is naturally drawn to the fact that before Geneva, the United States endeavored to present the issue in such a way as though someone at the meeting should talk primarily about many different problems, not about ending the arms race. Particular suspicion was aroused by the fact that the United States said that it did not want to give up its Strategic Defense Initiative program in any way, known by the people as "star wars."

[Sobolev] This is a question of principle; for if a door into space were opened up to weapons, then the scale of military rivalry will grow immeasurably, and the arms race will acquire an irreversible character and get out of control. This was substantiated quite precisely by the Soviet side. So, world situation today demands a new approach, a fresh look at foreign policy, proceeding from the realities of this world and not from individual countries' egoistic interests.

'Peaceful Mastery' of Space

[Levin] I would like to recall, moreover, that our country, at the UN General Assembly, which is continuing its work, put forward a very important initiative for the peaceful mastery of space. We also put forward for discussion at the General Assembly concrete proposals on the main directions and principles of international cooperation in the peaceful mastery of outer space under conditions in which it is not militarized. And so, as you see, there were different paths, different approaches, to Geneva. This undoubtedly was an obstacle that had to be taken into consideration.

When we speak of the Soviet Union's preparation for the Geneva talks with the U.S. President, it is also necessary to note the fact that the Soviet Union's position, those peace initiatives which the Soviet Union put forward, did not just receive widespread approval from the fraternal socialist states; to a large extent this position was worked out jointly and in a coordinate way.

The sitting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member-states, which was held in Sofia approximately a month ago, at the end of October, was mainly devoted to preparing for Geneva. Very title of the document adopted at that sitting reflects the main essence of the thinking, the main essence of the socialist countries' proposals. The statement is entitled: "For the Removal of the Nuclear Threat and a Turn for the Better in European and World Affairs." This joint coordinated stance of the socialist states was, naturally, another weighty factor in the preparations for the Geneva meeting, in our party Central Committee general secretary's preparations for the talks with the President of the United States of America.

'Serious, Businesslike' Talks

[Sobolev] From the very beginning of the meeting, even from the arrival of the Soviet delegation, journalists from various countries noted that the Soviet Union's attitude, its goodwill, had begun to bear fruit. The fact that it was decided to give the press information on the talks only after the conclusion of the discussions was seen as a clear sign of the serious and businesslike nature of the dialogue. An immediate positive appraisal was also given to the unscheduled duration of the two leaders' private discussions: instead of 15 minutes, more than an hour. Then their total duration was calculated, and not for the sake of arithmetic. As Comrade Gorbachev noted, the meetings were frank, prolonged, sharp -- at times extremely sharp -- and, productive to a certain degree.

The Geneva meeting was covered by 4,000 correspondents from all corners of the earth, but even more journalists wrote about them at home. One can note that the advocates of complete pessimism did not calm down in the least. For example, they attempted to poison the atmosphere by discussing U.S. defense minister Weinberger's infamous letter to the President, whose main theme was that there should be less arms control. Measures timed to coincide with the Geneva meeting were also carried out in the style of this letter: the transportation of new cruise missiles to Britain; maneuvers; the announcement of the military concerns' plans for preparing "star wars"; and so on. But an even more noticeable backdrop to the meeting was the general enthusiasm with good wishes for success, mass demonstrations in the United States, Western Europe, and other parts of the world, and the presentation of petitions to governments. Although conservative observers with displeasure saw in this, affirmation of the Soviet stance to the detriment, allegedly, of the U.S. one, this, of course, is not quite true.

International Reaction

[Levin] I would say that serious newspapers and serious politicians and public figures are not indulging in that type of reasoning, and even prior to the Geneva meeting extremely serious opinions were being expressed. For example, THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote that the Geneva meeting, the talks between the CPSU Central Committee general secretary and the U.S. President, is not a duel in which someone of necessity has to gain the upper hand. The same thought was expressed in the British OBSERVER. In connection with this I would like to recall what Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said at his news conference. He said that we resolutely advocate military and strategic parity between the Soviet Union and the United States, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization; we do not wish to obtain advantages, and, moreover, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary said, we do not wish the United States to lag behind, because then the basis for trust between states will be eroded. A country that feels weaker naturally strives to undertake some type of measure to equalize the confrontation and this, in turn, gives rise to serious tension. We do not need this.

For us it has never been a question of achieving success over the United States; it is a question for us of achieving mutually acceptable accords, a reasonable compromise.

As a matter of fact, the spirit of the outcome of the Geneva meeting gives grounds to conclude that things have begun to move forward in this direction. There are no losers; no one side has gained the upper hand; there are gains for the Soviet Union, for the United States, and literally for the entire world.

[Sobolev] People will talk for a long time about the outcome of the Geneva meeting. The initial responses, of course, note Comrade Gorbachev's words, that the world has become safer as a result of meeting. Although such key problems as ending the arms race on earth and preventing it in space have not been resolved the U.S. side was not ready for this meeting, as U.S. Senator Kennedy stated, it broke the ice in relations between our countries. Of fundamental importance is the fact that the joint Soviet-U.S. statement reflects a common understanding of the most important premises for the maintenance of peace, and the accord between Comrade Gromyko and Secretary of State Shultz, to examine the aspects of the issue of disarmament on an interrelated basis, has been reaffirmed at summit level.

Everyone understands the importance of the USSR and the U.S. words when they state that nuclear war must never be launched and that there can be no victor in such a war, and that the sides will not strive to achieve military superiority. As for the cardinal issue -- the arms race -- both leaders agreed that work on seeking mutually acceptable solutions will be persistently continued in Geneva at the nuclear and space weapons talks, and that this work will be accelerated in the aim of achieving progress, especially in areas where there are points of contact, including the appropriate application of the principle of a 50 percent reduction of nuclear weapons, as well as the idea of an intermediate agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe with effective verification.

Speaking before Congress after the meeting, the U.S. President noted that the constructive nature of his talks with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is shown in the agreement to set a dialogue on a regular basis and activate it, both at summit and other levels, and in particular, the agreement on Comrade Gorbachev's visit to the United States and President Reagan's visit to the USSR. The agreement on exchanges and contacts in various spheres is also of great importance. The fact that Americans strive for such contacts is shown for example, in a NEW YORK TIMES report. More than 300 leaders of U.S. companies will come to Moscow in the near future, hoping that the Geneva meeting will lead to an expansion of trading opportunities.

Constructive Dialogue Begun

[Sobolev] To sum up, the results of the Geneva meeting are being assessed on the whole as the start for a dialogue aimed at obtaining changes for the better, in both Soviet-U.S. relations in particular and in the world in general. Opportunities for that are being created by the summit. The Soviet position and our country's readiness to make use of such opportunities and to realize concrete, practical measures for tackling international problems, give grounds for looking at the future optimistically.

The Soviet Union, in its desire to realize the prerequisites provided by the Geneva summit, has wide international support at its disposal, namely that of the fraternal socialist countries, as the meeting of their leaders in Prague has confirmed.

[Levin] This meeting is directly connected with the Geneva talks [arms talks], because those talks were the primary subject at the Geneva summit. The report on the Prague meeting notes that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has given detailed information on the progress and results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, which was completed on the same day as the Prague meeting. Leaders of the fraternal parties and countries expressed their full support for the constructive position set out by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in the spirit of the joint policy expressed in the statement of the Warsaw Pact member states of 23 October 1985. I believe it is necessary to note that the conclusion has been made unanimously that the joint statement on inadmissibility of nuclear war and on the renunciation by the sides of seeking military superiority, contained in the final document of the Geneva summit, is of principled importance.

The main course of the allied socialist states directed at removing the threat of a nuclear war, halting the arms race on earth and preventing it from being spread to space ensuring the shift to true measures of disarmament and strengthening universal peace, has been confirmed at the meeting. The Warsaw Pact member states are again declaring their intention not to seek military superiority, but are simultaneously declaring that they will not permit it to be established over them. That is a very important point, it is appropriate to recall the fact that the draft of the new edition of the CPSU Program is very explicit about the significance of military-strategic parity. It states the following: Establishment of military-strategic parity between the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Pact and NATO, has been a historic gain of socialism. It has consolidated the positions of the USSR, the countries of socialism and all progressive forces, and refuted imperialism's aggressive circles' calculations of winning in a global nuclear war. Preservation of this balance is a serious guarantee of ensuring peace and international security.

[Sobolev] Thank you, comrades, for your attention, and I wish you all the best.

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RELATED ISSUES

PRAVDA REVIEW OF WEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 24 NOV 85

PM231851 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Nov 85 First Edition p 4

[Vitaliy Korionov "International Review"]

[Excerpt] At a Crucial Stage

There is nowhere on earth today where lively commentaries are not continuing on the results of the Geneva summit between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan. This is understandable, since all peoples are profoundly interested in the successful resolution of the most acute problem of our time -- the problem of war and peace.

Maintaining and strengthening peace and preventing mankind from being cast into the abyss of a nuclear catastrophe is the unwavering goal of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The USSR sees the normalization of relations with the United States as one of the main ways of achieving that. Our party pursues this line strictly.

The international situation has never before required such wisdom in the decisions of statesmen and such balance and restraint in their actions as in our time. It was with an understanding of this enormous responsibility that the CPSU and the Soviet state approached the Soviet-U.S. summit talks in Geneva. The Soviet side would not have gone to this summit if it did not proceed on the basis that there could be a positive outcome. It did everything in its power to make the summit businesslike and constructive.

The USSR strove to create in advance a favorable political atmosphere on the eve of the talks. The submission by the Soviet Union of a range of extensive peace proposals was of decisive importance here. The peoples assessed the specific actions implemented by the Soviet Union on their merits on the eve of Geneva, such as the unilateral ending of all nuclear explosions and the reaffirmation of the unilateral moratorium on tests of antisatellite weapons. "The key to reaching agreement," we knew the international public assessed the importance of the USSR's proposals.

The road to Geneva was not easy. Certain circles in Washington did everything to distort the USSR's proposals and actions. They eventried to belittle the importance of the summit. As certain newspapers in the United States wrote, the enemies of Soviet-U.S. mutual understanding were clearly "bearish." "It was wrong to pick the word 'movement' [advig] to describe the prospects for the summit," certain administration spokesmen claimed on the eve of the talks. "There are no chances in 10," was how they assessed the prospects for the summit.

Acquiring, at all costs, the possibility of speaking the language of the "position of strength" policy to the USSR is the aim of militarist U.S. circles. It is worth noting that the noise of the engines of the aircraft that brought the U.S. representatives to Geneva was drowned out by the rumble of U.S. test ranges, where the latest missiles are being tested.

However, the saber rattling could not stifle the mighty voice of the peoples appealing to the summiters in Geneva. The fact that hundreds of millions of people in all corners of the world were seized by a single desire -- to block the way to a nuclear conflagration -- has probably never been seen so clearly before. The entire conscience of mankind was united in the demand to put a stop to the arms race and slam the door to space on it.

The hope that the Geneva summit would give impetus to the talks between the two countries was expressed by the overwhelming majority of the UN states. The call for dialogue and cooperation on the eve of Geneva from the top statesmen of the "Delhi Declaration," which is understood and supported by the Soviet Union, was a weighty one. In many countries, including the United States, there were many large demonstrations by peace supporters on the eve of Geneva. Outstanding scientists from dozens of countries, including the United States, made their own authoritative statement in defense of "star peace." The voices of envoys from organizations of women and young people, physicians and educators, veterans of the meeting on the Elbe and Japanese casualties of the dropping of the atom bomb, representatives of the "Birds of Peace" [Ptitsy mira] organization, which unites children in 37 countries, and clergymen were heard powerfully in Geneva.

It was impossible not to take this into account. The attempts to divert discussion at the summit away from the main problems alarming mankind -- first and foremost the questions of ending the arms race on earth and preventing it in space -- were not successful. The examination of the question of war and peace at the summit was fundamental.

One can hardly make an unequivocal assessment of the results of the Geneva talks. Both leaders achieved a better understanding of each other's positions and agreed on the need to improve Soviet-U.S. relations and the international situation as a whole. A start was made on a permanent dialogue.

However, major differences remain on fundamental questions. Indeed, it would have been unrealistic, when certain forces in Washington have, for a number of years, rejected the very idea of the possibility of constructive dialogue with the USSR, to expect that a comprehensive agreement could be achieved, let alone achieved in such a short period of time.

the day he arrived in Geneva, M.S. Gorbachev stated: "The peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States and the peoples of other countries are expecting positive results from the Geneva summit. I can assure you that, for our part, we will strive for precisely such an outcome to this important meeting."

The Soviet side carried out its pledge. Geneva confirmed that there was no chance that the Soviet Union would let its desire to pull mankind back from the brink slip. At the last minute the understanding of the need to take realities into account at least on a number of questions, prevailed, even on the U.S. side.

Of course, the agreements that have been reached still have to be embodied in practical actions. A difficult path will have to be traveled in order to reach mutual understanding on cardinal questions. Keeping faith with the pledges that both sides made at Geneva is the most important prerequisite for this.

As for the Soviet Union, it has never broken pledges on which it has placed its signature. Our country will defend the cause of world peace with even greater vigor and resolve.

Shoulder to Shoulder

The meeting of the Warsaw Pact states' top leaders held in Prague 21 November reaffirmed the principled approach of the allied socialist states to the most urgent problems of our time.

The conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee in Sofia this October expressed the unanimous desire that the Soviet-U.S. summit should promote an easing of the dangerous tension in the world, a lessening of the threat of war, and the achievement of mutually acceptable solutions aimed at ending the arms race and making real progress toward disarmament. Thus, the Soviet Union's voice in Geneva was at the same time the voice of all participants in the Warsaw Pact.

The participants in the Prague meeting were unanimously agreed that in Geneva the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee made an exceptionally important contribution to the implementation of the socialist countries' common peace-loving course.

The meeting in Prague gave further confirmation that the communist and workers parties of the community states are consistently seeking increasingly effective collaboration among their countries in the world arena. They are guided by the realization that the destiny of world peace and future of world civilization depend, to a vast extent, on the strength of the socialist community and on the fraternal states' purposeful and concerted efforts.

"The socialist community," the draft new CPSU Program notes, "is the most authoritative present-day force, without which no question of world politics can be solved. It is the stronghold of world peace, the most consistent defender of wholesome, peaceful, and democratic principles in international relations, and the chief obstacle in the way of imperialist reaction."

The fraternal socialist countries are seeking persistently and consistently to carry out immediate measures which would lead to a lowering of the level of military confrontation and turn Europe into a continent of peace.

Suffice it to recall a recent initiative such as the GDR and CSSR Governments' proposal to the FRG Government on the creation of a zone in Europe free from chemical weapons. The implementation of this proposal would not only improve the situation in the region, where major armed forces equipped with sophisticated weapons are concentrated, but would also be a concrete step on the path to banning chemical weapons worldwide. The draft comprehensive program for the CEMA countries' scientific-technical progress through the year 2000, jointly prepared by the fraternal states, is also a contribution to consolidating socialism's positions and to the development of the European process [as published].

The Prague meeting of the top leaders of the Warsaw Pact states was new evidence that cooperation among the socialist community states is developing dynamically and fruitfully. The communist and workers parties and the fraternal countries' peoples are fully resolved to realize socialism's historic vocation -- to prevent war and save mankind from catastrophe.

RELATED ISSUES

THATCHER, STEELE ASSESS SUMMIT ARMS CONTROL RESULTS

Thatcher Remarks

London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2049 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Mrs Thatcher tonight said the Geneva summit had been a success--for President Reagan, Mr Gorbachev, the whole Western alliance and ordinary people throughout the world. She was speaking at Downing Street on her return from Brussels and a briefing on the summit for NATO leaders by President Reagan.

And she said: "Although no details were negotiated it is expected that that meeting will result in a strong impetus to the arms control negotiations." She said that these would now include chemical warfare and the mutually balanced force reductions talks going on in Vienna. Mrs Thatcher said that "star wars" was not, of course, resolved. The two nations discussed it very, very thoroughly indeed, each rehearsing their own arguments and talking them through with the other." She said that the only thing which emerged on "star wars" and nuclear arms control was on intermediate nuclear forces on which an interim statement is expected. A third achievement said Mrs Thatcher was "that it is quite clear the existing treaties will in fact be honoured, in particular the anti-ballistic missile treaty and SALT 2".

She said: "The chemistry was right -- or the alchemy -- whichever you like to call it, and they did get on very well." Asked about star wars she said: "There is clearly a gap. We are very much aware of it. The United States will continue with research. I believe they are absolutely right so to do." Mrs Thatcher said: "It would be very strange if one did not attempt to find a defence to the world's most dangerous weapon. There is no question of the United States dropping the Strategic Defence Initiative nor do I believe that the Soviet Union will drop theirs."

The prime minister was asked whether an agreement was likely to be reached quickly on chemical weapons. She replied: "I would not like to give you heightened expectations of particular agreements." She said: "Getting down to the nitty-gritty of these complex nuclear arms negotiations is very difficult and on chemical weapons there has been a verification problem which we have not yet solved."

Steele on U.S. Divisions

LD211514 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1432 GMT 21 Nov 85

[Text] Liberal leader Mr David Steele welcomed the outcome of the summit and said it should create a new atmosphere for the arms negotiations. He said: "It is my hope that the summit will mark the end of mutual antagonism between the super powers. That would be an important gain because as long as antagonism exists we cannot expect the arms negotiators to reach agreement.

"It now seems that they will be operating with a common objective to secure a reduction in the balance of terror.

"It is essential that both sides now accept the need to make concessions, which means deep cuts in the programmes they already have and in deployment. I would hope to see a reduction in the deployment of cruise and pershing missiles in Europe and their Soviet equivalents." Mr Steele hoped President Reagan would now stamp his authority on the direction his administration takes and overcome "the divisions" within it.

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RELATED ISSUES

SOVIET GEN MIKHALKIN ON MISSILE, ARTILLERY WEAPONRY

PM191506 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Nov 85 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Colonel General V. Mikhalkin, commander of Ground Forces Rocket Troops and Artillery, by correspondent N. Svutin, under the rubric "10 November Is Rocket Troops and Artillery Day": "Protecting Peace"--date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Svutin] If it is not a secret, comrade general, please tell IZVESTIYA readers about the weapons protecting us today.

[Mikhalkin] In the past 25 years the Ground Forces have been fundamentally transformed. In view of the aspiration of the United States and other NATO countries to build up their armies' nuclear and combat might with the aim of gaining technical superiority, the CPSU and the Soviet Government saw to it that nuclear missiles and other new systems and types of military hardware and guidance facilities were developed. This, by the way, is also stressed in the draft new edition of the CPSU Program: "The CPSU will make every effort to ensure that the USSR Armed Forces reach a level which rules out strategic superiority on the part of the imperialist forces..."

Now to talk in specific terms about the artillery. Several generations of these conventional types of combat hardware have already been replaced, each time surpassing the previous models in terms of maximum effective range, maximum rate of fire, accuracy, firepower, and battlefield effectiveness. We are now armed not only with highly motorized towed howitzers, cannons, rocket-launching and antitank artillery and mortar systems but also with self-propelled guns and mortars. The caliber of many of them is perhaps linked to previous types. But just look at their firepower -- there is no comparison. Designers' ideas are keeping pace with the demands of our age.

Tube artillery is no less significant today either. It is called on to tackle a broad range of battlefield tasks: Namely, to hit "pinpoint," line, and other targets. And also to combat the enemy's nuclear attack facilities located in its tactical zone. After all, responding to nuclear weapons is sometimes hazardous -- you may harm your own forces. No, it cannot be said yet that gunners are of secondary importance.

Frontliners, of course, are interested in the fate of the legendary Katyusha. Whereas the first wartime installations were designed to fire a 16-projectile salvo, everyone has surely now seen on military parades installations capable of firing up to 40 projectiles. Present-day volley fire rocket systems with an updated combat vehicle fleet for firing rocket shells have a longer range, are more accurate, and are successfully fulfilling completely new tasks.

Our antitank artillery is being improved in the light of the development of the enemy's tank hardware. A special comment must be made about antitank guided missile complexes. They are small in dimension and bulk, highly accurate, and have greater firing range than the grazing shot range of the best tanks.

[Svutin] Nevertheless, missiles are the troops' main form of fire power. Let us recall how were "accepted" by the Ground Forces.

[Mikhalkin] In the first few years after the war we created a completely new means of combat -- guided ballistic missiles. The Ground Forces were given their own long-range facilities.

Nuclear munitions were used during large-scale troop exercises in fall 1954, confirming that ground force units and divisions could use these weapons to thwart aggression and defend peace. Operational-tactical and tactical nuclear weapons transformed the new category of forces into a strike force with tremendous fire power. Our missiles can hit targets ranging from several dozen kilometers to many hundreds of kilometers away. The great range and high-speed movement of missile launchers makes it possible to maneuver freely using mass, group, or individual missile salvos.

[Svutin] Could you describe for the readers, at least in broad terms, the kind of modern battle in which artillery makes a contribution?

[Mikhalkin] Of course. Motorized rifle and tank units have been set the task of piercing the enemy's defenses. How does the attack begin? With a preparatory bombardment. The enemy's antitank facilities, artillery, mortar batteries, control centers, radio-electronic facilities, and first echelon battalions must be well and truly neutralized. Tankmen and motorized riflemen rush toward the enemy. In strict coordination with their movement the artillery neutralizes and destroys the enemy's means of fire and reserves with massive concentrated fire and prevents them from maneuvering and counterattacking.

We are helped to fire accurately by improved optical, sonic, radar, radio-technical, and photogrammetric reconnaissance. And night vision devices, of course.

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RELATED ISSUES

PRAVDA NOTES PEACE DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING IN SOFIA

PM221432 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Nov 85 Second Edition p 5

[Special correspondents Yu. Zhukov and L. Zhmyrev dispatch: "The Will of Millions"]

[Text] Sofia, 21 Nov -- It so happened that reports on the press conference given by M.S. Gorbachev in Geneva at the conclusion of the Soviet-American summit meeting started arriving in Sofia just as a conference of the socialist countries' national committees for the defense of peace began its work here. Participants in the conference note that the intense interest in the Soviet-American meeting shown by peoples from all countries is in itself most graphic evidence that none of mankind's tasks today is more acute or more vital than the struggle for peace, detente, and disarmament. The fundamental, chief conclusion drawn by participants in the conference from the results of the Geneva talks is that the champions of peace must double and treble their efforts in order to finally end the arms race on earth and prevent it in space.

Leaders of the movement of peace champions from the USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the GDR, Romania, Cuba, the DPRK, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos are taking part in the conference which opened in Sofia today. WPC President Romesh Chandra and members of the WPC secretariat are taking part in the work of the conference.

Opening the conference, Georgi Dimitrov-Goshkin, chairman of the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace and people's artist and cultural figure of the Bulgarian People's Republic, emphasized that recent events have demonstrated the growing influence of antiwar movements. The major peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union have given powerful new boost to the development of these movements. The intensification of activity by fighters for peace everywhere on the eve of the Soviet-American summit meeting was an impressive demonstration of their resolve to block the way for the nuclear arms race and prevent the militarization of space.

An expressive reminder of this was provided by the Geneva meeting of leaders of U.S. antiwar movements with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the course of which the Soviet leadership was presented with a peace petition, signed by 1.5 million Americans, in support of ending nuclear tests, freezing nuclear arms, and preventing the militarization of space. Some 2 million signatures were collected recently for a similar appeal by fighters for peace in France. Peace champions in Britain, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and a number of other NATO countries have actively supported the Soviet peace initiatives.

Sharing their experience, the envoys of the socialist states' committees for the defense of peace describe the vast scale of mass actions in their countries in support of demands to ban nuclear tests, freeze nuclear arms, and reject the militarization of space. In the Soviet Union alone some 150,000 mass events attended by about 60 million people were organized during the disarmament action week held in October. The participants in the conference emphasize the need for further expansion of demonstrations in defense of peace, which they intend to organize in close cooperation with all peace-loving forces on the planet.

The very fact that the Geneva meeting has taken place, participants in the conference emphasize, is a major success for the forces of peace, as well as a result of powerful pressure on the White House by the antiwar movement. On the whole, the first reports coming from Geneva show convincingly how fair and farsighted was the assessment of the international situation elaborated by the collective intellect of the fraternal countries at the Sofia session of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee held in October this year.

The first small moves toward easing the international situation have been made. However, a vast struggle whose objective is to prevent the threat of thermonuclear catastrophe which is still hanging over the world still lies ahead. This is why the participants in the Sofia meeting unanimously voice the idea of the need to expand international cooperation and the antiwar movement still further in the struggle to terminate the nuclear arms race. Such is the will of the peoples, such is the commandment of the time.

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